

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express support for Governor Abbott's request for a major disaster declaration on behalf of Texas counties impacted by severe storms and flooding beginning on April 17th. These storms caused widespread flooding across north, central and southeast Texas including the Houston metropolitan area, with some areas receiving nearly two feet of rain. Governor Abbott declared a state of disaster for Austin, Bastrop, Bosque, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Milam, Montgomery, Palo Pinto, Parker, San Jacinto, Waller, and Wharton counties on April 18th.

In just under 12 months, the state of Texas has been hit by four severe storms causing untold damages and hardships. Most of the storms listed above have been declared in one or more of these major disasters. Over half the counties in Texas and over 70 percent of Texans have been affected by these storms. As vast as the state is, simply put, the resources of these people, the jurisdictions, the state, and voluntary organizations are exhausted.

Last week, more than 1,200 high water rescues were reported and more than 11,000 homes were affected as a result of the storm. Approximately 134,000 customers experienced power outages during the peak of the storm. Thirteen shelters were opened to support disaster survivors. Forecasts show the possibility of more rain. Even one to two additional inches will cause more flooding with grounds saturated from last week's storms. River flooding continues to threaten areas of Texas as accumulated rainfall moves downstream.

The Governor has determined that this event is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and has requested Individual Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Small Business Administration assistance for Fayette, Grimes, Harris, and Parker counties. Damage assessments will continue throughout the impacted areas and it is likely the Governor will request additional assistance in the coming days.

We urge you to give expeditious consideration to, and approval of, the Governor's initial request and any subsequent requests related to this disaster.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael T. McCaul

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Member of Congress

/s/ John R. Carter

JOHN R. CARTER
Member of Congress

/s/ Kevin Brady

KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress

/s/ John A. Culberson

JOHN A. CULBERSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Blake Farenthold

BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Flores

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Green

AL GREEN
Member of Congress

/s/ Gene Green

GENE GREEN
Member of Congress

/s/ Sheila Jackson Lee

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted Poe

TED POE
Member of Congress

/s/ Pete Olson

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Babin

BRIAN BABIN
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Barton

JOE BARTON
Member of Congress

/s/ Michael C. Burgess

MICHAEL C. BURGESS
Member of Congress

/s/ Joaquin Castro

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

/s/ Michael Conaway

MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry Cuellar

HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress

/s/ Lloyd Doggett

LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress

/s/ Louie Gohmert

LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress

/s/ Kay Granger

KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress

/s/ Jeb Hensarling

JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress

/s/ Rubén Hinojosa

RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress

/s/ Will Hurd

WILL HURD
Member of Congress

/s/ Eddie Bernice Johnson

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Sam Johnson

SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress

/s/ Kenny Marchant

KENNY MARCHANT
Member of Congress

/s/ Randy Neugebauer

RANDY NEUGEBAUER
Member of Congress

/s/ Beto O'Rourke

BETO O'ROURKE
Member of Congress

/s/ John Ratcliffe

JOHN RATCLIFFE
Member of Congress

/s/ Pete Sessions

PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress

/s/ Lamar Smith

LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress

/s/ Mac Thornberry

MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress

/s/ Marc Veasey

MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress

/s/ Filemon Vela

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

/s/ Randy Weber

RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress

/s/ Roger Williams

ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress